Participation of private sector for development of geo-thermal energy

409. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH. Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

whether the participation of private sector is encouraged in developing geo-thermal energy in the country;

if so, the details of support extended to the participants by the Government during the last three years, year-wise;

whether any location in the country has been identified to generate the energy; and

if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken to identify new locations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is encouraging participation of private sector in all forms of renewable energy, including geo-thermal energy. The Ministry has encouraged the private sector participation in geo-thermal energy by allowing access to the data collected on geo-thermal resource in India by the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad through the Ministry's support. The Ministry also facilitates the private sector to undertake their own investigations/assessment studies for geo-thermal energy and submission of Detailed Project Report (DPR) to the concerned State Government for exploitation of this resource.

None has approached the Ministry for financial support during the last three years for harnessing the geo-thermal energy.

(c) and (d) Based on the studies carried out by NGRI so far, the Puga Valley in Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir and Tatapani in Sarguja District of Chhattisgarh have been identified as potential sites for tapping the geo-thermal energy for power generation and thermal applications. Such studies are also in progress through NGRI in Surajkund in Jharkhand, Badrinath-Tapovan in Uttarakhand and Satluj-Beas and Parvati Valleys in Himachal Pradesh.

Hydro and wind power generation

410. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that there is a vast potential in hydro power resources and wind power generation in the country;

if so, Government's response to tap these natural resources in the country;

whether Government is encouraging community based mini hydro projects in the country so that power generation targets are achieved, particularly in rural and tribal areas of the country; and

if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is responsible for the subject of small hydro up to 25 MW. As per the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the total hydroelectric power potential in the country is asessed